

Capitol Planning Commission Minutes
July 17, 2013
Historical Building, 3rd Floor West, Classroom B
(1:00 pm – 2:30 pm)

Members Present:

Matt Anderson
Bill Dikis
Carol Grant
Elizabeth Isaacson
Scott Weiser
Senator Matt McCoy
Senator Charles Schneider
Representative Dan Kelley
Representative Ralph Watts

Members Absent:

Mike Carroll
Allison Dorr Kleis

Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Staff Present for All or Portions of the Meeting:

Lon Anderson, DAS
Tim Ryburn, DAS/GSE
Bruce Greiner, DAS/GSE
Nancy Williams, DAS/GSE
Tera Granger, DAS/GSE
Brant Carr, DAS/GSE
Charlee Cross, DAS/GSE
Jennifer Moehlmann, DAS/GSE
Ben Brackett, DAS/GSE
Teresa Lane, DAS/GSE
James Stathis, DAS/GSE

Others Present for All or Portions of the Meeting

Mark Willemsen, Legislature
Theresa Kehoe
Marcia Tannian
Mary Braun
M. Jessica Rowe – Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation
Carl Voss

Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Vice Chair Bill Dikis, followed by roll call and introductions.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Carol Grant made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Matt Anderson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Scott Weiser nominated Vice Chair Bill Dikis to be Chair. There were no other nominations for Chair.

MOTION: Scott Weiser made a motion for nominations to cease. Carol Grant seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Liz Isaacson nominated Scott Weiser to be Vice Chair.

MOTION: Carol Grant made a motion for nominations to cease. Liz Isaacson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Committee Organization

Master Plan Committee

Chair Bill Dikis solicited three members for the Master Plan Committee. Liz Isaacson said she would like to serve on the Master Plan Committee. Matt Anderson said he would like to serve as a member on the Committee due to the work he's involved with, such as the City, East Village and surrounding neighborhood. Scott Weiser volunteered to chair the Committee.

Site Features Committee

Chair Bill Dikis solicited two members for the Site Features Committee, holding the third spot for Director Mike Carroll. Carol Grant said she would serve on the Site Plan Committee and volunteered to chair the Committee. Bill Dikis said he would serve on the Committee if Allison Dorr Kleis was not interested.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for April 17, 2013 Meeting

MOTION: Scott Weiser made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Liz Isaacson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports/Project Updates

Shattering Silence Monument Nomination

Jennifer Moehlmann said she was contacted by two Nebraska high school students about their desire to nominate the Shattering Silence Monument into the National Park Services' Network to Freedom as part of their high school honors project. The students asked DAS to write a letter of support as owners allowing the monument to be nominated into the Network and Director Mike Carroll would like the Commission's opinion and approval. Membership in the Network doesn't create any requirements on us as the owners but we may be able to compete for grants in the future if there's money available and we'll be listed on the Network to Freedom website. Scott Weiser asked if we've done this with any of our other monuments or facilities before. Jennifer said she's not aware of it and doesn't believe this was ever brought to us before.

MOTION: Carol Grant made a motion to approve the nomination for the Shattering Silence Monument into the Network to Freedom. Matt Anderson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation Site Feature Application

Jessica Rowe from the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation presented a proposal to locate a new monument on the Capitol Complex grounds to commemorate the founders of the Iowa National Bar Association (INBA) in 1925 in Des Moines. Among the founders were five Iowans. The INBA will celebrate its 90 year anniversary in 2015. The monument will be a signature sculpture of two colossal drum-like forms that form an hour glass called the "talking drums." They are stacked on top of each other, off center but balanced, in a contemporary abstract form. The sculpture has a very smooth black

finish. The plan is to agree upon a site location by the Fall of 2013 and then negotiate with the artist to come back in 2014 to work with the site and resize the piece for the project.

Chair Bill Dikis asked if the size is up for discussion. Ms. Rowe replied that is correct, the sculpture stood 37 feet in height and 20 feet in width when it was sited between Walnut Street and Court Avenue on the river. Chair Bill Dikis said it looks like there was some ground development around it, perhaps an elliptical plaza? Ms. Rowe said the plan was initially to put the First Amendment at the bottom along with the names of the five Iowans that were founders. The most important aspect is the monument and then they'll have to see how far their fundraising goes. Chair Bill Dikis asked if the material held up under UV okay. Ms. Rowe confirmed that there is a monumental piece outside of the Denver Airport made out of this material that is located outside. The materials are the same as those used to build ships. Chair Bill Dikis voiced concern over whether there would be enough room at the proposed location in the roundabout. Ms. Rowe said they are very flexible regarding the monument location and the most important thing is that it is visible and it has an association with its surroundings. Chair Bill Dikis asked if the Judicial Branch had been apprised of this yet and Jessica answered that she has a meeting set-up with Chief Justice Cady to brief him on the monument.

Senator McCoy voiced his support for Ms. Rowe and the Public Art Foundation and said he's curious about fundraising. Ms. Rowe said the committee has raised about \$400,000 for the project and the budget depends upon the site. Initially, the budget was \$2 million and over the years has been reduced to \$1 million. The current cost is estimated at \$500,000. There are some pledges waiting for the site to be identified. Senator McCoy said the Iowa Bar Association has been very active in fund raising and asked if they have made any fund raising efforts. Jessica replied yes, funding has come through the Community Foundation, Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation, Prairie Meadows Race Track and Casino, a tremendous amount from individuals who are attorneys, and from the National Bar Association.

Senator Schneider said he wants to make sure that he understands the purpose of the application to locate a structure on the Capitol Complex grounds. Is it to grant permission to locate the sculpture and not to pin down a specific site? He added that it'll look great by the Supreme Court. Chair Bill Dikis said he will refer to the Site Features Committee for further discussion and to provide a recommendation that will be brought back to the next meeting in October. Input from Judicial will have been received by then as well. The Committee would make a determination as to the acceptability of the proposal and the site location.

Representative Watts said he has questions relating to fiberglass and voiced the need to investigate thoroughly. The theme of the exhibit is similar to the Shattering Silence Monument. His is concerned with the location in the turnabout or in front of the building and thinks it should be closer to the Shattering Silence Monument. Another minor issue is the presence of water running through the grading of the middle of the Shattering Silence monument right where people stand, so take a look at grading on the area around the site so water runs away from it. Chair Bill Dikis asked that additional research regarding fiberglass durability be provided to the Site Features Committee. Jessica noted that the research has been completed and she will provide it to the Committee.

Carol Grant added that she agrees with Representative Watts on the similarity of the proposed monument with the Shattering Silence monument and wanted to make sure that it doesn't overshadow the Japanese Bell and Bell House monument. A number of sites have been considered and she wanted to make sure this is taken into consideration.

Chair Bill Dikis asked Carl Voss if he had any additional observations. Carl said no, just look at sites in conjunction with the Department of Administrative Services.

MOTION: Scott Weiser made a motion to refer to the Site Committee and ask for a report back before the next Commission meeting. Matt Anderson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

B-Cycle Station

Carl Voss announced that the Des Moines Bicycle Collective has been awarded a state grant from the Iowa DOT's Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP). This funding will allow for the placement of a B-Cycle station on Capitol Complex. Two potential sites were identified in the parking lot north of the Lucas Building. A mobile station could be removed in early December to permit snow removal. This would be the first mobile station in the Des Moines area. Mobile stations are used in several other communities around the US. The station would take up four to six existing auto parking spots. Each B-cycle station has an ad panel. One side of the station contains a panel with a map of the B-cycle locations and the state would have control of the opposite side of the panel, which can be used for an enlarged map of Capitol Complex or even a healthy message. There will be no expense to the state. Funds will be available to install the station in the spring of 2014.

MOTION: Chair Bill Dikis made a motion to approve the concept and referred the matter to the Master Plan Committee for details to finalize the site and bring back to the October meeting for final approval. Liz Isaacson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Update

Lon Anderson said DAS was asked to compile 2 lists for the Commission: appropriations compared to DAS' five year plan and appropriations compared to the Capitol Planning Commission's recommendations. In the five year plan, DAS asked for \$31 million for major maintenance in FY14 and \$30 million in FY15. The Legislature appropriated \$16.2 million in FY14, after line item vetoes, and \$14 million in FY15, for a total of \$30 million. They appropriated \$1,000,000 for Historical and \$330,000 for Capitol Interior and Exterior Restoration. That concluded their appropriations for the DAS five year plan. DAS has been asked by the Governor to create a new five year plan that includes Fleet relocation, Historical Building, Wallace Building and other major maintenance projects. Lon recommended members contact the Governor and his staff and encourage him to support these projects in his budget.

For the Capitol Planning Commission's priorities, the Wallace Building was the top priority and the Legislature approved that money but it was item vetoed. The CPC had recommended \$2.2 million for Capitol Interior and Exterior Renovation and \$330,000 was appropriated. The CPC had recommended \$625,000 for the Historical Building and \$1,000,000 was appropriated. None of the other priorities were funded.

Scott Weiser asked how the entire process begins. Lon said as a Department we have to recommend our budget. What you see on the five year plan is what was recommended. The Governor reviews all departmental budgets and has to fit all those budgets into a very small pie. He did recommend \$26 million for the Historical Building. At that point, it appeared there wasn't enough capacity in the RIIF to do both Wallace and the Historical, but that belief might be changing because of the circumstances of the budget. Representative Watts asked if the Governor might be more open to including the Wallace and Lon Anderson answered yes. Representative Watts asked what they are trying to do with the Historical Building and Lon Anderson deferred to Director Cownie to answer that question in her presentation.

Holocaust Memorial

Jennifer Moehlmann informed the committee that the Holocaust Memorial was completed before July 1st. A dedication ceremony is planned for late October 2013 at the Historical Building and Jennifer will email Commission members as more information becomes available.

Rowhouse

Charlee Cross said work has begun separating the two buildings (707 and 709 East Locust) this week. The 709 building is scheduled to be relocated. DAS anticipated starting demolition of building located at 707 East Locust next week. The developer and his relocation contractor are scheduled to be on-site around July 29, 2013. Three weeks of preparation work is anticipated. The new site for the 709 building is not ready as planned - still hoping by end of August to first of September to have building roll down the street. If all goes well, the final grading and seeding will be completed this fall.

Representative Ralph Watts asked if there was a hard date for something to happen to the building. Charlee said yes, they're currently in the process of separating the two structures with saws.

Iowa Building

Charlee Cross said the Iowa Building is currently undergoing abatement. The actual demolition will tentatively start September 10th. She anticipates that the grading and seeding of the property will be completed by end of 2013, weather permitting.

Historical Building

Exterior repair – currently replacing granite on the east side and north side – this phase is addressing safety issues relating to granite falling off the building. Work is scheduled to be completed by end of 2013.

Hoover

Work began in mid-June 2013 and is anticipated to be done in six to eight months. The north side is going well. The first set of panels on the far northeast side of the building has been completed. The south side is a little more resistant to the cleaning and a second product for cleaning is being used. Work that involves disruption to pedestrian traffic will be scheduled after hours.

Fleet

Tim Ryburn gave a presentation on the DAS fleet building currently located on the southwest corner of the West Capitol Terrace (corner of Walnut and East 7th Street). The garage was open in 1941 and construction work occurred in 1950. The building currently has 13,800 square feet. The goal is to secure funding in FY2015 and relocate all fleet operations to one facility. The facility relocation cost is estimated to be between \$5.0 million and \$7.0 million. Demolition of the current building and bringing the site back to ground space estimated to cost between \$1.0 million and \$1.5 million.

Chair Bill Dikis asked if the fueling station would stay on the same site. Tim said he is not sure at this point and the topic is currently under discussion. The advantage is we don't have the tax consequences of paying state and federal taxes. If state vehicles fuel off-site, we have to recover that tax. There is about \$6,000 a month savings in taxes. However, the pumps will need to be upgraded in the future. Chair Bill Dikis would not like fuel station on north side location and is ambivalent regarding continuing the south side location. Chair Bill Dikis said he is a huge supporter of the Fleet relocation and would really like to see it happen.

Representative Ralph Watts asked if there has been a new location identified for the facility. Tim said a couple of sites around the city were initially considered, but a purchase was not possible due to lack of funding. Tim said they are looking at rightsizing fleet. They are meeting with agencies to discuss their functionality. Some agencies have smaller maintenance structure and he is trying to bring them to Fleet as he believes he offers a better value (savings) and structure to support the needs. Representative Ralph Watts said he assumes moving too far away will compromise savings. Tim Ryburn said they issued an RFP two years ago to evaluate the privatization of fleet and the evaluation noted that a significant savings (\$6 million annually) could be achieved by keeping fleet in house. Representative Ralph Watts asked about savings for renting some of fleet vehicles. Tim Ryburn said they have an active program with Enterprise to keep vehicle utilization high.

Capitol Complex Events

Nancy Williams said it would be a busy summer with a lot of events.

April Meeting Follow-up

Jennifer Moehlmann said there were a few questions at the April meeting about the criteria for holding events on the Capitol Complex and referred to a handout for rules on the events. Jennifer Moehlmann said that a few questions were also raised about Capitol security at the last meeting. Due to the sensitive nature, details on security procedures cannot be discussed in an open meeting. However, Jennifer Moehlmann asked anyone interested in more information to contact her and she will connect them with the correct people to discuss the questions one-on-one.

Annual Report

Jennifer Moehlmann said a suggestion had been made to add a section to the Annual Report that looked at the first 10 to 20 years of the Capitol Complex Master Plan and update it with any progress made. Chair Bill Dikis approved of the suggestion and volunteered to work with Jennifer Moehlmann on drafting the Annual Report. Scott Weiser asked how often we anticipate updating the master plan. Chair Bill Dikis said it is up to the Legislature, but he thought it was done on a ten year cycle.

Historical Building Future Vision

Mary Cownie, Director of the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), presented on the current plans for the Historical Building. She said the initial conversation started regarding the \$1.2 million appropriated to DAS for exterior and interior building repairs in addition to preliminary planning for a visitor center.

DCA realized after taking a broad look at the building that just adding a visitor center was not going to solve the larger problems. They realized they needed to take a holistic approach in terms of how to incorporate a visitor center, what it should look like, and where it should be located. A museum consultant was hired to conduct a needs assessment, facility strategy, and to determine next steps. The building is twenty-five years old but it has quite a bit of deferred maintenance. When discussing possible costs, one needs to keep in mind it's a very unique building in terms of the Capitol Complex. It houses more than state employees - it houses our state's entire collection of history.

The 3 key priorities are: planning for the future, investing in collections care, and building enhancements. Internally, DCA is discussing an RFP to bring in a master plan consultant with an architect. DCA will further develop the RFP with DAS to be able to inform the report that is due to the Legislature in October 2014.

The goal is to make the building more sustainable and to ensure the agency's mission is aligned with DCA's staff and budget. The main priority is to ensure a valid, strategic approach. There is a lot of

information to gather regarding building needs to better serve Iowans. Additionally, DCA needs to know how the visitor center is incorporated with the rest of the Capitol Complex. With the row houses and fleet building gone, DCA will be able to envision how this will all fit in with the visitor center to ensure its functionality as a one stop shop to meet the needs of both the state and out of state visitors to the Capitol Building, Capitol Complex and to Des Moines.

Chair Bill Dikis asked if DCA was funded for the master plan consultant and architectural sketches as part of the report. Mary Cownie said yes, it generally talks about the preliminary planning that can inform the design work along with public input.

Other Business

Comments and Discussion

None.

Overview of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on October 16th, with the location to be determined.

Adjourn

MOTION: Carol Grant made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Scott Weiser seconded and the meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.